

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02
CCO-00 /077 W
-----048234 192154Z /46

O 192120Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4623
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSM QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2725

PANAMA FOR ROBERT PASTOR, NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPER, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: TENSION EASES: CONSESNSUS GROWS THAT BALAGUER WILL ACCEPT
ELECTORAL DEFEAT

REF SANTO DOMINGO 2713

1. THERE IS NO HARD, SINGLE FACT TO POINT TO THAT DEMONSTRATES
PRESIDENT BALAGUER MEANT WHAT HE SAID LAST NIGHT THAT HE IS NOW
READY TO STAND ASIDE FOR ANTONIO GUZMAN WHO WILL TAKE POWER
AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT. BUT, BEARING VERY
MUCH IN MIND THAT ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN THE NEXT 90 DAYS, ALL
PRESENT SIGNS INDICATE THERE HAS BEEN A SEA-CHANGE BEGINNING
TOWARD MID-MORNING IN THE HIGHLY-CHARGED POLITICAL SITUATION
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THAT HAS REIGNED IN THE COUNTRY SINCE THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF
MAY 17 WHEN THE DOMINICAN MILITARY SHUT DOWN THE VOTE COUNT THAT
SHOWED THE THREE-TERM PRESIDENT THE LOSER IN THE NATIONAL ELECTION
OF THE PREVIOUS DAY. THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING WILLINGNESS NOT
ONLY ON PART OF EMBASSY CONTACTS, BUT ALSO BY OPPOSITION PRD TO
TAKE BALAGUER AT HIS WORD. ASIDE FROM RETIREMENT OF MILITARY
FROM STREETS (SEE SANTO DOMINGO 2701) AND INCREASED ACTIVITY IN CITY,

THERE ARE DECIDED SIGNS OF NORMALIZATION.

2. EMBOFF TALKED AM TO CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD CHAIRMAN CASTILLO, WHO SAID THAT UNLIKE YESTERDAY DURING COURSE OF WHICH THERE WERE NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS OF SANCTITY OF MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL BOARDS IN CAPITAL, SANTIAGO AND OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY, TODAY BOARDS ARE ALL OPERATING NORMALLY. HE HAD JUST CONTACTED BOARD IN SANTIAGO AND ALL MEMBERS OF LOCAL BAORD WERE AT THEIR BUSINESS OF CONTINUING VOTE COUNT. (EMB HAS HEAR OF ONLY ONE IRREGULARITY TODAY, AS NOTED SD 2707.) CASTILLO ALSO CATEGORICALLY DENIED RUMOR CIRCULATING THIS MORNING THAT HE HAD RESIGNED AND SAID THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN THE JCE FINISHING ITS LABORS AND ARRIVNG AT FINAL VERDICT ON ELECTORAL RESULTS. HE SAID JCE HAD STILL RECEIVED FEW OFFICIAL REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL BOARDS BUT THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN DUE COURSE. WHEN ASKED IF JCE COULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO SPEED UP RELEASE OF RESULTS AS RECEIVED BY JCE RADIO NET HE SAID THIS WAS NOT A RELIABLE OR LEGAL MEANS OF CARRYING OUT BOARD'S OBLIGATION.

3. ALSO PRD SENT LETTER THIS MORNING TO CASTILLO CITING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OCCURING YESTERDAY AT LOCAL ELECTION BOARDS, EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO FORCE BOARDS TO ALTER RESULTS. HOWEVER, LETTER PUT FAITH IN JCE'S ABILITY TO CONDUCT FAIR VOTE COUNT. CASTILLO RESPONSE TO PRD, ACCORDING TO PRD PRESIDENT SALVADOR JORGE BLANCO, WAS THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, GIVEN SAFEGUARDS OF DR ELECTION LAW, FOR RESULTS OF ELECTION TO BE FAL-CONFIDENTIAL

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SIFIED SINCE ALL PARTIES HAD OWN CERTIFIED COPIES OF ELECTION REPORTS FROM EACH POLLING PLACE.

4. LETTER WAS READ THIS AFTERNOON OVER PRD RADIO BROADCAST ON RADIO COMMERCIAL, FIRST SUCH BORADCAST SINCE ELECTIONS AND MAY 17 MILITARY INTERVENTION. (RADIO COMMERCIAL WAS ONLY STATION OFFERING ITS FACILITIES TO PRD IN LAST TWO DAYS OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN DURING WHICH REFORMIST PARTY MONOPOLIZED ALL OTHER RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS.)

5. DURING BORADCAST PRD PARTY PRESIDENT SAID THE SITUATION HAD PERMITTED NORMALIZATION WITH "THE REAFFIRMATION OF CIVILIAN AUTHORITY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC." HE ALSO STATED THAT THE SITUATION OF TENSION HAS BEEN REDUCED CONSIDERABLY IN THE COUNTRY SINCE YESTERDAY AND THAT BALAGUER'S SPEECH OF LAST NIGHT IS "ENCOURAGING" BECAUSE NOT ONLY DOES PRESIDENT AFFIRM THAT WILL RESPECT ELECTIONS BUT ALSO THAT INSTITUTIONALITY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM ARE ABOVE PERSONAL INTERESTS." JORGE MADE LIGHT OF BALAGUER'S STATEMENT OF "IRREGULARITIES" IN ELECTORAL PROCESS. PRD BROADCAST CALLED ON PRD FOLLOWERS TO KEEP CALM AND MAINTAIN PEACE. PRD LEADER HATUEY DE CAMPS ALSO SAID DURING PROGRAM THAT MILITARY WERE RETIRING FROM ELECTORAL BOARDS AROUND COUNTRY. IN

ADDITION HE STATED PRD'S DESIRE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE DEMOCRACY "BEGUN BY JOAQUIN BALAGUER." JORGE NOTED THAT THERE WERE IMPORTANT REFORMISTAS AND FRIENDS OF THE PRESIDENT WHO WERE COMING OUT IN FAVOR OF RESPECT FOR ELECTION RESULTS. HE ALSO READ SEGMENT OF BALAGUER SPEECH WHICH SAID ARMED FORCES WILL RESPECT CONSTITUTION AND INSTITUTIONALISM OF MILITARY AND GAVE ASSURANCES THAT PRD WOULD RESPECT INSTITUTIONALISM OF ARMED FORCES. DE CAMPS SAID HE AND TWO OTHER PRD LEADERS MET WITH VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS GOICO MORALES WHO ASSURED THEM HE DESIRED THAT ELECTION RESULTS BE RESPECTED.

6. CABINET MEMBER WHO MET WITH BALAGUER BEFORE LAST NIGHT'S SPEECH TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE IS CONVINCED PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT ELECTION RESULTS AND IS PREPARING THE WAY FOR HANDING
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POWER OVER TO PRD. BALAGUER TOLD CABINET TO PREPARE TO TURN THEIR DEPARTMENTS OVER TO PRD GOVERNMENT. SOURCE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT BALAGUER MUST MASSAGE MILITARY AND GRADUALLY CONVINCE THEM THAT THEY MUST ALSO ACCEPT ELECTION RESULTS. THIS CABINET MEMBER PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT DESPITE SOME IRREGULARITIES IN ELECTION WHICH FAVORED PRD, HE IS CONVINCED THAT PRD WON ELECTIONS AND SHOULD TAKE POWER.

7. EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGED BY THESE SIGNS AND BELIEVES FEVER IS BREAKING. WE WILL BE ALERT TO ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT CRISIS HAS IN FACT EASED.
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